# ROME'S GREAT RIVAL.

CANON RAWLINSON'S NEW HISTORY OF PARTHIA.

THE STORY OF PARTHIA. By George Rawlinson, M. A., F. R. G. S. Pp. xx., 422 G. P. Putnam's Sons (Series of the Story of the National

Seen from a vantage point, two thousand years later in time, the origin, growth, decay and fall of the Parthian Empire seem parts of an obscure episode in history. Yet Parthia was for many generations the only rival that could cope with Rome. Her archers and her cavalry have left a deeper trace in Latin literature than almost any other foreign force. Those wild horsemen, who could speed the unerring arrow as they fied, were the theme not merely of picturesque verse, but of words in which were uttered the dread and anxiety of a nation. There were years in those centuries when Rome and Parthia confronted each other access the traditional hattlegrounds of Asia years later in time, the origin, growth, decay across the traditional battlegrounds of Asia Minor, that seemed to threaten the subjugation of Eastern Europe. Not since the days of the Achaemenide kings of Persia had the western world seemed in such peril. If Constantinople had been the capital of the Mediterranean Empire instead of Rome, it is more probable that a Turanian conqueror would have occupied the throne of the Caesars a whole millennium before Mahomet II. But the comparative indifference of the Asiatic races to their own annals has left the memory of Parthia to be gradually effaced. Save in the coins of her kings, and some trifles of sculpture and architecture, her history is to be read only backward, one may say, in the dubious paragraphs of Roman historians. Canon Rawlinson has done well to recur to

a theme which he long ago made his own. In a style more popular than that of his carlier works, he reviews anew the centuries that intervened between Greek domination and the rise of the Sassanian dynasty, and shows that they were not devoid of human interest nor of valuable lessons in politics. He indicates by putting them to an appropriate use how many of the catchwords of modern diplomacy and international controversy were applicable to the affairs of Asia. He agrees only in part with the saying of Gibbon that Parthia gave an exhibit of feudalism long before such a thing was thought of in Europe; for he maintains that thought of in Europe; for he maintains that while the resemblances were striking, they were few, whereas the differences, if obscure, were numerous. One extremely important difference was in the way the relation between overlords and vassals came into existence. In Europe the process was mainly a yielding of service that became hereditary in return for protection. In Asia it was the upraising on a social structure that had existed for ages of another story in the form of a new dynasty. another story in the form of a new dynasty. If the nobles and the people were left to such enjoyment of their own property as was customary, it mattered little to them where the central power was, whether the wielder of im- has worn to generations since those adventuperial sceptre was a Chaldean at Babylon, a rous and ruffianly times. Though cruelty was Semite at Nineveh, an Aryan at Susa, or a always deprecated by the few or the many, Turanian at Ctesiphon. Tradition, moreover, may the pirate was deemed, on the whole, a picturhave enabled them to see, what the meagre rec- esque and praiseworthy adventurer, as long tically that of ancient Persia, modified by the factor in the life of Mesopotamia. They multikings even went so far as to stamp a Semitic a scale by the Assyrian and Babylonian sovcome of the descendants of the Ten Tribeswhether in any places they still constituted distinct communities, or had long ere this been absorbed into the general population of the country-at any rate colonies of Jews, dating from the time of Nebuchadnezzar's Captivity, maintained themselves, often in a flourishing condition, in various parts of Babylonia, Armenia, Media, Mesopotamia, Susiana, and probably in other Parthian provinces." These colonies enjoyed a toleration similar to that accorded to both Jews and Christians in parts of Turkey, a toleration which is always subject to outbreaks of local fanaticism and persecution. "In many cities they formed a recognized community under their own magistrates; some towns they had wholly to themselves; those who dwelt in Mesopotamia possessed a common treasury; and it was customary for them to send up to Jerusalem from time to time the offerings of the faithful, escorted by a convoy of 30,000 or 40,000 armed men. It was odd-the Greeks and Syrians were always grumbling on the eve of sedition; but when the Empire was in real trouble under the weak and disorderly

and Syrians who started the worst uproar, but it was the prosperous and uncomplaining Jews. The two young Jews, Asinal and Anilai, were workmen in a manufactory at Nearda. Apparently they went on what would newadays be called a strike, owing to some personal grievance against their employer. As they had no other occupation, they withdrew to an uninhabited marsh near the River Euphrates, and set up as robbers. In a short time they were surrounded by a considerable band of adherents, most of whom appear to have been Jews from the fact that they were supposed to observe the Sabbath strictly. On this point their enemies were misled, and a plan to surprise them on the seventh day resulted in disastrous defeat for the party of law and order. Success as robbers and as warriors made the two bandit captains a power in provincial politics. The Parthian King, instead of persisting them at his court, and finally made Asinal Vitage, that is a Viceroy, of Babylonia, and posbly gave to his brother the reversion of the office in case of Asinai's death. Asinai be-

reign of Artabanus III, it was not the Greeks

demanded that Anilai be compelled to put her conduct was that of an outlaw, and he was finally cultivated the Syrians there at the expense of ern side of the Island of Hispaniola. linson will not allow that such disorder and

physical appearance of the people that their origin is suspected. The ancient writers called them Scythians; that meant simply that they were disagreeable. The Greeks and Romans were disagreeable. The Greeks and Romans were altogether too profuse in their use of the term Seyth. It lost all ethnological significance, if it ever had any. Politically, perhaps, the Paghians showed their prudence by disguising their own peculiarities, and by taking on as rapidly as they could the civilization of the races whom they ruled. They found something better than they were used to, and they accepted it. But they never gave up their most important peculiarities. To the last day of their political existence they loved the country better than the town, a horse better country better than the town, a horse better than a house. They lived, ate, one might al-most say slept, in their saddles. Some of them learned Greek enough to enjoy an Attic tragedy, but never Greek enough to spell with

The volume is an interesting addition to the series of "The Story of the Nations." | veals firm ground and rational historical veas firm ground and rational historical con-tinuity in a period where many readers might suppose a great gulf to be fixed. It is illus-trated with maps and plans, views of archi-tectural specimens, and, most useful of all, with examples of the coins struck by successive monarchs. Professor Gardner's work on "Par-thian Coinare" has made this easy. thian Coinage" has made this easy.

#### PIRACY IN THE NEW WORLD.

AN EARLY HISTORY OF THE EUCCANEERS REPRINTED.

Piracy did not wear the same aspect to the

view of people in the sixteenth, seventeenth

and much of the eighteenth centuries that it

ords of the East reveal to us, that improvement as he preyed on the subjects of a power to in politics had been a reality in the succession which he owed no allegiance. Scafaring from of Asiatic empires. The plan of local gov- time immemorial had been tainted with lawless ernorships adopted by the Persians, rude as it violence, and at the opening of the modern seemed, was a vast advance on the Assyrian period of history religious controversy had emplan of sending out an army every summer to bittered the national rivalries of Europe, and "round up" the tribes like flocks of sheep, and had converted many a ship captain into a rob them. The Parthian system was prac- murderous partisan. Almost from the date of discovery the religious dispute had complicated practice of Alexander's successors. It was the question of proprietorship in the New more flexible than any that had preceded it. World. When the "Bishop of Rome," as Eliza-It could bend even to anarchy without breaking. both called him with diplomatic contempt, ran A story which illustrates this peculiarity of a line around the earth and gave Spain all the Parthian is told by the author of this vol- she could find in one part, and Portugal all ume at considerable length. It is the episode of she could pick up in another, the rest of the Asinai and Anilai, two Jewish outlaws. From world simply went in to seize and carry off the time of the Exile, Jews had been a growing whatever was valuable and portable, and to settle down upon as much of the new land as plied where other races declined. Of course it could hold by force of arms. On the most their history was marked by tragedy. It has gigantic scale was exemplified the fact that always been thus marked everywhere. But no power on earth can make a law or pass a taken altogether, they got along fairly well with judgment which will stand against the will taken altogether, they got along they lived, and the other races beside whom they lived, and of the majority. Under such conditions the Parthian rulers appear to have been more than irregular and sanguinary warfare of wanderfriendly to them. Josephus boasted that he ing traders and adventurers, of cattle-drivers, wrote his narrative of Jewish antiquities in his logwood cutters, planters and laborers, against native tongue before he turned it into Greek, be- the colonies of Spain seemed excusable, if not cause he had many readers in Parthia. The later | legitimate. "To applications addressed to the various European princes" by Spain, as relegend on their coins, Greek having been used marked in the introduction to the present reexclusively for this purpose throughout the ear- print of Esquemeling's narrative, "for redress her centuries. The coins of Parthia, in fact, appear to give a succinct record of the gradual ican waters, the usual answer was to the effect of Hellenism in Asia and the correspond-fect that the King of Spain was at liberty to decay of Hellenism in Asia and the correspond- feet that the King of Spain was at liberty to ing rise of a native element which was symbol- proceed as he pleased against all persons actized by its language, the Syro-Chaldean. In ing without their commission. Elizabeth of this composite the Semite was, perhaps, the England, with greater frankness, replied that strongest factor. "That system of 'transplanta-tion of nations,' which was pursued on so large the depredations complained of, which were the depredations complained of, which were of "The Heavenly Twins" do not appear at first brought on solely by their own severe and unereigns of the eighth, seventh and sixth centu- just dealing. She did not understand why her ries before Christ, had introduced into the heart subjects should be debarred from traffic in of Asia a number of strange nationalities, and America, nor would she acknowledge titles among these there was none more remarkable given by the Bishop of Rome to lands of which than that of the Hebrews. Whatever had be- Spain was not in actual possession. This unsatisfactory state of affairs (further aggravated by religious differences) lasted from the early by delicacy and a philosophic temper that it is no-visits of Hawkins. Drake and others to the where cause of offence. The terrible mysteries of end of the Thirty Years' War, during which period the interlopers were continually reinforced, first by the buccaneers proper from Hispaniola, and, secondly, by corsairs of all

> Spain, alarmed by the exploits of such men as Sir Francis Drake and by the gradual advance of foreign colonies in America, entered upon a war of extermination. The adventurers simply redoubled their efforts. A blood-red flag raised on a Spanish vessel was answered instantly with the same color on its piratical opponent. It was under such conditions that there grew up an ideal corsair, the embodiment of all the courtesy and chivalry which aforetime were credited to another armed brute, the mailed knight of the Middle Ages. Compare such a picture with the reality as personified in Pierre le Grand, Bartholomew the Portuguese, Roche Brasiliano, Francis l'Olonois, Sir Henry Morgan, Blackbeard, England, Low, Roberts, Kidd and Avery, and one may easily see how a cutthroat who gratified a national hatred through science." Eloquent as he sometimes is, might be enveloped in a halo of romance. But it must not be forgotten that the early buccaneers, ever at their worst, retained some good traits. They were uniformly friendly to the natives, and it was to the good offices of these people, whom the Spaniards had often cruelly misused, that they owed many of their victories They were also often romantically faithful to each other. "It was not an uncommon practice for two buccaneers to swear brotherhood, to stand by each other during life, and each to make the other his heir, and these curious partnerships once entered into were observed with a fidelity almost touching." On the other hand, outside of these narrow friendships, they were as indifferent to each other's weal or woe as so many animals

nations serving under the Protestant flag, such

as the Sea Beggars from the revolted Nether-

lands, French Huguenots, etc."

According to the Dutchman Esquemeling, all in the effort to suppress them, entertained this guerilla warfare, which finally raged around almost the whole circumference of South America, had a very insignificant beginning. Though he called these volunteers against the Spanish office in case of Asinai's death. Asinai behaved with unexampled propriety. From an outlaw he became a vigorous upholder of the laws, and for fifteen years Babylonia was at peace. But Aniai was of different mould. In order to obtain the wife he wanted, he murdered the husband she already had. The woman was of noble Parthian family, and therefore a worshipper of idois. To the scandal of all the Jews in Babylonia, Anilai allowed her the which she had always been accustomed. They he called these volunteers against the Spanish | bride when her elderly bridegroom leaves her to | From The London Spectator, power in America pirates, he was careful to | mope alone in Britain | while he goes a solidering | I should be much obliged

was to such men, doubtless, that Pierre le an astonishing mixture of dissipation and saintly away. Then Anilai, to avoid this, murdered his Grand appealed. "The first pirate that was brother and assumed the Viceroyalty. But his known upon the Island of Tortuga was named Pierre le Grand, or Peter the Great. He was massacred with all his troopers. Meanwhile, all | born at the town of Dieppe, in Normandy Babylonia became the scene of race conflicts. The action which rendered him famous was a body. The latter settled in Seleucia, and | flota, near the Cape of Tiburon, upon the westthe Greeks. But the Hellenes won the Syrians | bold exploit he performed alone, with only one over to their side, and then provoked a riot, in | boat, wherein he had eight and twenty persons, which 50,000 Jews were killed. Canon Raw- no more, to help him. What gave occasion to this enterprise was that until that time the Spaniards had passed and repassed with all security, and without finding the least opposition through the Eahama Channel." This one success was a sufficient lesson to others. Planters and hunters abandoned their ordinary employments and put to sea in the enabled them to enlarge the circle of their operations. As time went on they drove the Spanish vessels from the sea, and then, under L'Olonois and Morgan, began their more pretentious and hazardous campaigns against towns and colonies on land. They became so strong that in 1670 they were able to collect a fleet of thirty-seven vessels with crews numbering in all 2,000 men. It was a portion of this force which crossed the Isthmus, and after defeating an army of 2,500 Spaniards, sacked and destroyed the town of Panama. But Morgan was a robber of robbers. He was accused of embezziing a large part of the booty obtained by this expedition. He quit the and soon afterward became Lieutenant-Gov- woman of society. Yet this, briefly told, is the ernor of Jamaica. Subsequently, he was knighted and promoted to the Governorship. In office he was as energetic in the suppression of piracy as he had previously been to promote it. It is recorded that his secession from the buccaneer community just when there was no leader of capacity to succeed him was a severe blow to their cause.

Among the early buccaneers service was its voluntary, and the discipline, except in decisive moments, almost democratic. The usual plan was for a well-known man to announce a date and meeting place for all who were willing to join him. If he were popular, and had the reputation of good luck as well as bravery, he was soon surrounded by as many powder and ball as he was told to bring. Every volunteer had a voice in determining the sim of the expedition. Each contributed a fixed sum to the expenses, and signed a paper have sum to the expenses, and signed a paper which bound him not to conceal any plunder and to submit to an equitable division of the spoils. "They agree upon certain articles," says Esquemeling, "which are put in writing by way of bond or obligation, which every one is bound to observe, and all of them, or the chief, set their hands to it. Herein they specify and set down very distinctly what sums of money each particular person ought to have for that voyage, the fund of all the payments being the common stock of what is gotten by the whole expedition; for otherwise it is the same

law among these people as with other pirates, "No prey, no pay."

These reminiscences of men who shared the perils and probably the crimes of the buccaneers, though they ever only partially the history of piracy in American waters, make up in vividness what they lack in breadth. The volume contains portraits and numerous maps and pians reproduced from the early editions of Esquemeling's narrative and Ringrose's journal.

#### NEW NOVELS.

MADAME GRAND'S LATEST BOOK.

THE HEAVENLY TWINS. By Madame Sarah Grand, 12mo, pp. 679. Cassell Publishing Com-

DR PASCAL, By Emile Zola, Translated by Mary J. Serrano, 12mo, pp. 471. Cassell Pub-lishing Company. HALF A HERO, By Anthony Hope, Franklin Square Library, 16mo, pp. 214. Harper & Broth-ers.

ALL ALONG THE RIVER, By M. E. Braddon, Izmo, pp. 263. Cassell Publishing Company.
LUCIA, HUGH AND ANOTHER, By Mrs. J. H.
Needell, Emo, pp. 368. D. Appleton & Co.
THE REFUGEES A Tale of Two Continents, By
A. Coman Payle, Hiustrated, 12mo, pp. 365.
Harper and Brotherz.

THE TRANSLATION OF A SAVAGE By Gilbert Parker, 12mo, pp. 181. D. Appleton & Co.
NOT ANGELS QUITE. By Nathan Haskell Dote,
12mo, pp. 227. Lee & Shepard. TUTOR'S SECRET. By Victor no, pp. 345. D. Appleton & Co. MARGARET DAVIS, TUTOR, By Anna Chapin,

Hay, Lino, pp. 237 Thomas Y, Crowell & Co. JOHN PAGET. By Sarah Barnwell Editot, Emo, pp. 827. Henry Holt & Co. BROTHERS AND STRANGERS, By Agnes Blake Poor, 18mo, pp. 222. Roberts Brothers. Of all the novels of the season, that called "The men and women alike delight in its wonderfully and its vigorous delineation of the intricacies of strange situations. The eccentric pair of young-sters who sparkle through the book under the name

swer many of the problems presented in it, and are, in truth, what the title-page fadicates, "not signs of the zodiac, but signs of the times." Madame Grand deals with matters from which most feminine novelists shrink, and deals with them frankly; but her frankness is so guided by womanlife, its tragedy, its cruelty, its beauty and its loy stir in these pages, and over all sounds the maiestic music of the great cathedral chime, "He, watching over Israel, slumbers not nor sleeps.

There is no solemn assertion of spiritual force in M. Zola's "Dr. Pascal." This concluding volume of the Rougon-Macquart series sums up its author's philosophy, such as it is, in an insistance upon scientific manipulation of the theory of heredity as the cure of all human ills. Dr. Pascal's creed is "the progress of reason through science, truths acquired slowly and forever the only possible good, the belief that the sum of these truths, always augmenting, would finally confer upon man incalculable power and peace, if not happiness. The reader will find nothing new in the theories proclaimed by M. Zola with much flourish of trus ready been set forth in the declaration that the sins of the fathers are visited on the children, and it hardly needs the vicious, diseased and criminal record of "the human beast" carried through wenty fat volumes of fiction to enforce its truth from the scientific point of view. Probably even the author would not claim that the enormous sales of his novels indicate a popular study of the doctrine of heredity and "the progress of reason doubt if future generations will consider M. Zola a great scientist, a great benefactor of his "delicious notoriety," about which he talked in London the other day, is a thing that passes, "Dr. Pascal" is less nasty than some of its pred-ecessors—yet it has nastiness which is utterly unnecessary to the course of the story,

James Mediand, premier of a colonial government and a democratic idol, is the "half hero" of Mr. Anthony Hope. He is a manly fellow, on the whole, an average politician of his kind, who mingles with self interest a genuine patriotism and real affection for his fellow-man. In the eyes of the beautiful young English aristocrat whom loves, he is half a hero, too-one she keeps in her heart to the last day of her life, though her illusions are dispelled by a revelation which ends at the same time his political career. The story is particularly attractive in its semi-humorous descriptions of British colonial life and politics. A novel of less distinction by another English write Miss Braddon's "All Along the River." eme is the misery that may befall a fair young

abnegation Much of the flavor of the old-time historical romance is to be found in Dr. Conan Doyle's "Refudecentrent of intrigue, sudden death, and lovemaking; here is the centrast of the wildwood with The natives of Babylon drove the Jews out in his taking of the Vice-Admiral of the Spanish its startling adventures, its strange characters, its scent of blood and fire, mingling with that of This the chestnut and the cedar. The King's guardsman, gallant and debonatr, advances be Yankee, who has the well-worn knack of always being where he is most wanted; and priest, royal favorite, and crafty minister balance the scene with yelling savage and daring voyageur. Whether the historical characters herein presented be true to life or not, they are picturesque and interesting witness the pompous figure of Louis XIV mincing on its high heels through the book, an old combination of cowardice, self-indulgence and selfrighteousness, of meanness and magnificence, narrow straits. Every prize that they gained last chapters, which chronicle the escape through the Canadian woods of De Catinat and his bride are the most vivid of all. The fantastic Seigneur de Sainte-Marie and the light in his forest stronghold, melodramatic as it is, linger in emory long after the final page is turned. The hero and heroine are the least satisfactory personages of the story. They are merely wooden pegs on which the plot is hung. But all defects apart it is an uncommonly entertaining book. M. de Thuristrup's illustrations are capital. Another new novel in which the North American Indian figuresthe Indian of this century, however-is Gilbert Parker's "Translation of a Savage." A man of the world who marries a Hudson's Bay halfbreed in a fit of pique and sends her to his father and mother in England to be their torment would hardly expect to find her at the end of three years meta business of a pirate, set up as an honest man, morphosed into an accomplished and beautiful experience of Mr. Parker's hero. The story would have been more artistle if the savage herolne has not been credited with intellectual refinements and emotional subtleties which are incompatible with her birth and nurture. She is an absurd mixture of Belgravian Maud and blanketed girl of the wigwam "Not Angels Quite" is a flippant and pretentious

story of Boston life. A self-aufficient air inflate. style, and references to various ethical and sociological questions are "chucked in" fushion which is popularly supposed in Oshkosh-and Boston-to be very "fin du siecle," whatever that may be. The best thing in the book is the description of the meeting of an organization which is possibly the old Radical Club. The plot of the story is the simplest imaginable. Moved by the god of propinquity, A is betrothed to B, and C to daring men as he needed. Each man came armed as prescribed, with such a quantity of with D results in a change of partners. The 'smart' and would-be-playful tone of the book onveys an unpleasant sense of strain.

M. Cherbuliez's new novel has all the nimbleness and certainty of touch which have always dis tinguished his work. His types are not particularly fresh ones, but they run their course with so muc animation that this may be forgiven. The erratic and wilful little heroine is, truth to tell, rather vulgar too, and the reader feels some sympathy with the British mother-in-law who cannot endur-Cherbullez shows that he knows mankind when he mates her with a shy and melancholy man of serious tastes. It is his knowledge of French life and character, one must conclude, which leads aw among these people as with other pirates, him to make his heroine say, on the stagey apposed destroyer of his peace: "I wanted to read your heart. Your appearance when you came in, he looks you have given me, what you have said our wish to kill us, him first, then me, all prove to me that you know how to love. For the future of the story the ugly tutor should have betrayed his secret-his love for his young pupil-is out of tune with his unselfish character; but a tender avowal of this kind is, of course, a stereotyped gainst a blemish which this book shares with several recent translations, the anglicising of "Mon "Madame," and "Mademoiselle," It is an ectation and an irritating incongruity when e and with French cognomens; and to be entirely nsistent the names, which are often susceptible

translation, should be put into English also, "Margaret Davis, Tutor," Is a wholesome, If not ectally original story, which offers several excel-nt morals as to the management of children and he development of the youthful mind. The plot s slight, and the heroine's sentimental troubles orm but a small part of it. The device of making er happiness turn on the loss of a message, askng her to wear certain flowers if she means to say Yes," is so backneyed as to be ridiculous. Th book is emphatically feminine in tone; and so is Miss Elliot's "John Paget." The latter would be much improved by condensation. The plot is not strong enough, the characters are not important

male personages have not the air of reality and its psychology is weak; and it has too much of the forest and gushing manner which so often mars the work of the "Southland" writer.

The author of "Brothers and Strangers" has published two or three successful short stories under the name of "Dorothy Prescott," but this, we believe is her first novel. Looked at in the light of this fact, it must be admitted that it is amazingly well done. Here is real life with enough of the ideal indicated to give the simple plot a vivid interest. The characters are devel-oped in the current of incident in a fashion worthy a veteran writer, and the action never halts, he types selected are thoroughly American. Insed, it is not often that one finds a bit of fiction hich smacks so strengly of our own soil; though, range to say, there is no cowboy nor gentlemanly inbler among those types. One phase of the look which is managed with really remarkable till is the sudden revolution which, in the middle the story, it forces upon the reader's sympathies of prejudices. It is a curious change, but one se to human nature. Miss (or Mrs.7) Poor's jud is easy, limpid and natural—a style like the tire of a well-bred man, so good as not to be offensible. This elever little book gives us a right expect from its author something even more mmendable in the future.

# JOWETT'S CONGRATULATIONS.

From The Pall Mall Gazette. From The Pall Mall Gazette,
Another story of Professor Jowett, A student who
had passed his "greats" with some distinction had,
as was his wont, been taken up by the Master and
asked to partake of his hospitality. Tete-a-tete,
the Master inquired: "Well, Mr. —, what do you
think of metaphysics?" 'Oh!' was the consequential reply, "my two years' study has convinced me
that metaphysics are humbug," "Indeed." calmly
observed the professor, "then you are a very lucky
man, Mr. —, for there are some who have studied metaphysics until their seventieth or eightieth
year and have not made that discovery."

#### A POSSIBILITY IN THE NEXT WORLD. From Kate Field's Washington.

civ:
"Never mind, dear; this bleness will make you aloo life all the more when you are about again."
"I don't know," sighed the patient, "perhaps 1 dil not get well.

"Yes."
"You take it rather cheerfully."
"Oh, I don't mind at all. Perhaps I shall meet
Mr. Browning in the next world, and we shall have
such a good time explaining his works to each
other!"

# A QUESTION ON SPELLING.

From The Westminster Gazette.

From The Westminster Gazette.

A veracious and amusing Foreign Office anecdote was (writea a correspondent) brought to one's mind yesterday by the numerous newspaper boards all over London announcing the result of the Cesarewitch Stakes. The Queen, whose accuracy is proverbial, very rightly objects to the customary manner of spelling Tsar and Tsarevitch in English—L.e.. Czar and Czarevitch—as giving a totally incorrect rendering of the hard-sounding Russian z. More than once had Her Majesty's wishes on the subject been conveyed to the offending Foreign Office cierke; at length Sir Henry Ponsonby wrote in despair: "I really do not know how the word is written myself, perhaps you might discover by sending to Newmarket to inquire." Unfortunately the sporting world, to judge from the orthography, appears to labor under the impression that the Russian Tsars but with the Roman Caesars.

# DREAMS AND SMELLING.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

"Trilby" is the title of Mr. George du Maurier's new novel-the novel which is to be published serially in "Harper's" during the coming year. This title is borrowed from the name of the heroine It is a love story, is full of humor, and is not without the supernatural element of "Peter Ibbet-Another "Harpers's" serial which is on the stocks is Mr. Charles Dudiey Warner's "Golden House," a story of social life in New-York.

The proof sheets of Boswell's "Johnson," which were said to be "discovered" by Dr. Birkbeck Hill during his recent visit to this country, are unimportant, and are in no sense "a find," They are merely the sheets from the Auchinleck Library, which were sold to an American by the Sothebya a few months ago. They brought the comfortable sum of \$725, but the corrections in Boswell's hand which appear upon their margins are of little in-terest. The most valuable objects in the library were Boswell's own books with his lively notes,

Mrs. Molesworth, one of the cleverest and most renowned of all the modern writers for children, is a woman of Scotch and English blood, born in Holland. She is a grave, gentle, rather delicate looking creature, with a slight figure, and soft



Heyer in methodical work, and her rule is to sit down at a certain time and compel herself to write to the end of two pages. If by that time she finds that she has not got into the spirit of her regards style, she thinks that a writer for children annot be too fastidious.

Miss Mary Wilkins has written a new novel-one which is described as a particularly strong piece of work. It is to make its first appearance in January in the pages of "Harper's Weekly,

Mr. Holman Hunt, the artist, is busy with his 'History of the Pre-Raphaelite Movement," hopes to bring out the book by the end of the year. He finds it difficult to make his reminis short enough, for the movement he chronicles cisms among the celebrities of its time. In his MS., Hunt describes with singular vividness a visit from Carlyle and the queer talk of the Scotchman concerning the Pre-Raphaelites,

novel, will sparkle in the pages of "Scribner's" during the coming year. It promises to rival that brilliant performance, "The Egoist," The magazine will present, at the same time, a new serial novel by Mr. J. M. Barrie,

An old Kirriemuir schoolfellow of Barrie's, by the way, declares that as a boy the author of "A Window in Thrums" was a very commonplace little person, showing forth no evidences of the cleverness to come. He once wrote a farce for a New Year's entertainment at the school, which so far from awaking admiration was promptly sat upon as "poor stuff." In fact, he is remembered best as a small and animated member of the football team.

Here is a portrait of the late Lady Eastlake, the woman who, in her unmarried youth, wrote the particularly savage review of "Jane Eyre," which is still remembered as a triumph of cruelty. Yet



pered-it is so amiable, in fact, that one must be lieve that it was youthful intolerance, thoughtless ness and ignorance that moved her pen in that far

Mr. Arthur Symons's paper in the November ture" deals with a subject which is undentably keep track of the development of modern literastudying it sympathetically, fail to discover that Oh, you don't think of such things as that, do their relative bearings. Mr. Symons quotes Ver-

studying it sympathetically, fall to discover that it has points of merit. It has one steriing virtued in its independence. But the decadent movement may be summed up as one-cighthi-literature and seven-cighths twaddie. Twaddie, in its lifetime, has an unlucky way of predominating, of reisming. It is only posterity that can defronce it, uniess contemporaneous people have their wits about them and are not awed by that which is new and cause will keep their wits about them, profit by the cause will keep their wits about them, profit by the cause will keep their wits about them, profit by the cause will keep their wits about them, profit by the cause will keep their wits about them, profit by the cause will keep their wits about them, profit by the cause will keep their wits about them, profit by the cause will keep their wits about them, profit by the cause will keep their wits about them, and is certainly not too desperately eulogistic; but he closes on what is easily construed as a note of approbation, and we do not see how that is possible for any one who sees the decadents clearly, sees them not only in their essential significance, but gets fell of the control of the profit was a support of the control of the profit was a support of the control of the profit was a support of the profit was a support of the profit was a control of the profit was a contract when the profit of the profit was a contract when the profit of the profit was a contract when the profit of the profit was a contract when the profit of the profit was a contract when the profit of the profit was a contract when the profit of the profit was a contract when the profit was a contract

descends to print and publicity, why does he not then exert the same fascination and exhibit the same suggestiveness? Mr. Symons refers to Mal-"contortion of the French language." Happy phrase! But M. Brunetiere has coined a happier in styling the members of the new school "charlatanesques et funimbulesques." The distinction is obvious. The contortion of language may mean no more than a painful effort to find the right phrase. The end of rope-dancing is rope-dancing. It has its place, beyond a doubt. It is delightful on the boulevards. But how incongruous it is in an environment wherein thoughtful human beings live has been admirably proved in London. There Mr. William Ernest Henley has not don. There Mr. William Ernest Believ has not only sought to acclimatize M. Mallarine by print-ing some curious productions of his in "The Na-tional Observer" (we recall especially a paper on Loie Fuller); but the latter journal, which bears on its every page the stamp of Henley's personality, has endeavored to emulate Mallarme in its conception of prose. Mr. Henley's prose is probably the most pernicious now circulating in England, for, unlike Mr. Pater's beautiful work, which, in its sphere, is even more fatal, it appeals to a wide circle of readers and writers. It is showy, it is saturated with affectation. It never, by any chance, conveys a thought clearly and persuasively if it can instead dazzle the reader by far-fetched novelty and intimidate him by a kind of literary braggadocia, a sort of, "We thank our literary gods that we don't read Mrs. Humphry Ward." gods that we don't read Mrs. Humphry Ward. Mr. Henley may succeed in imposing his style upon a circle of blind and immature devotees. We doubt if he ever succeeds in making his idol, M. Mallarme, really at home among English readers, and the reason—which applies also to Verlaine, Huysmans, Rimbaud, Gustave Kahn, to the wholls are adventised in factors that he is anticable. decadent school, in fact—is that he is antipathetic to the genius of the English people. These writers have music, color, fancy, invention, nay, they have is nuance." But why do they not throw some new and available light on normal human experience, why do they not apprehend and interpret spiritualized or even common beauty, why do they not write poetry? Their insight into unfamiliar realms of thought or action is the insight of M. Huysmans writing "A Rebours," a unique masterpiece, unquestionably, as Mr. Symons calls it, but a masterplece of futility, the picture of a type that sickens. That is the lasting sin of the decadenta, the sin that makes them of no serious consequence Self-inclusive, pessimistic, sensual, they set down, in as original diction as they can, sensations mot thoughts) whose source is traceable not to honest philosophical meditation confronting courageously the problems of life, but to a morbid, cynical toying with curious speculations. "The body is weary," say the versifiers and the writers of prose fiction, "let us try the soul. There is nothing more amus-ing than the soul." But the soul, much abused theme, is not, after all, to be trifled with, and if there is anything more sickening than the cant work, she puts it aside, but she generally finds of the prig it is the obscure yet shallow symbolism, that it runs smoothly after the first effort. As decadents approach the secret of destiny. What do they know of life? Anything more than they can see through the fumes of absinthe and the window of a Parisian cafe?

Mr. Howells has been putting on paper his literary reminiscences, in a series of articles entitled "Men and Letters." They ought to be of value, for in his thirty years' experience as editor and writer he has known well his most interesting contemporaries. The papers are to appear in "Har-

An English edition of Octave Uzanne's "Book-Hunters in Paris, Being Studies Among the Bookstalls of the Quays," is coming out. It has an introduction by Augustine Birrell, and nearly 150 text illustrations

"Madam Sarah Grand's" real name, we are told, is Mrs. McFall. A London correspondent of "The Boston Transcript" says that "she of "The Boston Transcript" says that "she and mould her opinions for abandoning that name." She is described as a slender, graceful, young woman, possibly about thirty, with a long, oval, sensitive face, pale but radiant with intellect. Her hair is brown and her eyes are "of so indescribable a shade as to be additionally fascinating." Her voice is low and sweet, and her talk original and delightful.

The author of "The Heavenly Twins" began to write at seventeen, and put her first novel on paper at Singapore, She found great pleasure is the work, but it did not even occur to her to try to publish it. She has just begun another book: but as she writes slowly sae does not expect to complete it for two years to come. She lives in the country and loves it.

The "Private Letters of King James's Reign," which Walter Scott amused himself by writing in 1821, and which have never been published, are to oppear in the Christmas "Scribner's." These letters describing town and country manners in the days of James I were put aside by the novelist upon the persuasion of various friends, who declared that he was throwing away in them tae "makings" of a good romance. Much of the material Scott use1 afterward in "The Fortunes of Nigel." of the letters having been discovered at Abbots. ford has been edited with an introduction by An-

Bret Harte has written a new short story which is coming out in "Harper's Bazar," under the title of "An Episode of West Woodlands,"

Miss Wharton, whose entertaining book "Through Colonial Doorways" has had a successful career, s preparing a new one in much the same veir This is to be called "Colonial Dames in Their

Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, the so-called English umorist, has written some satirical pages on novelmaking which are to appear in his Novel Notes," now on the press of Henry Holt

The same firm is about to bring out Mr. Arthur Dexter's translation of Karpeles's "Heine."

A limited English edition of Victor Hugo's "Ruy Blus" is soon to be brought out by Estes & Lauriat. It is illustrated with etchings, after paintings by Adrien Moreau.

# IRVING AND TERRY IN " BECKET."